

8 December 1970

REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON PROGRAM CALL

I. GOAL

It is believed that a desirable future goal for OMS and one that will be of maximum benefit to the Agency is the improvement and extension of medical services in the Agency. Such extension and improvement involves ideally reaching 100% of Agency personnel at headquarters and overseas. This extension and improvement of services to more people at widespread geographic locations in our view will require the use of modern technology which is now available or appears will be available in immediate future. At the heart of such extension is the acquisition of more health data which can only be utilized best by OMS and in turn by management by full use of modern techniques not now extensively used by OMS. For such extension to be successful and beneficial full use of computer and other new modes of information processing is necessary. OMS proposes to move in that direction with a goal of significantly increasing medical services without significant permanent need for added monies and positions.

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II. PROCEDURES AND ACTIVITIES TO BE INITIATED

Accomplishment of the goal of improving and expanding medical services to the Agency obviously cannot be done in one fell swoop. There will of necessity be a transition period to allow new procedures and technologies to be adopted. During this transition period there may be a need for more personnel and an increase in budget. Work done by OMS personnel to date would support that view.

The plans now developed by OMS personnel envisage an ultimate goal of an Integrated Health and Evaluation System on a worldwide basis including satellite transmission to be operational by 1977. To back this up a new Information Processing System based on computers as the heart of the system and requiring major revision of records, data handling, and data storage such as microfilm would be instituted in 1973. Along with this the initiation and expansion of Multiphasic Screening (Multitest Laboratory) and Periodic Health Examinations would take place in 1973. Additional procedures would be initiated in the field of Behavioral Sciences by the OMS BSSC in 1973. Centralized laboratory facilities would begin functioning in 1974 to be followed by a Centralized Diagnostic Facility in 1975. During 1973 Employee Education programs would be expanded and augmented program for training and/or retraining of OMS personnel would be formalized. Provision for research activities would be incorporated in 1974 functions.

Preliminary study and work has been done in OMS on the overall goal of extending and improving medical services in the Agency. A paper detailing the results of OMS plans and the requirements for accomplishing this goal by FY 1977 is attached.

III. BENEFITS

(As attached)

IV. PROPOSAL

It is the view of the special OMS subcommittee which has undertaken this program call evaluation that the majority of the proposed systems are feasible. However, other Agency components must be integrated with such endeavor.

To that end this subcommittee proposes that further study be undertaken by OMS personnel and representatives from appropriate disciplines. It is recommended that a committee composed of representatives of each OMS component and other required disciplines should be appointed. This committee would be responsible for designing a general plan for automation in OMS and should enter into a working relationship with OCS and SIPB. As the initial task an immediate systems study of OMS by OCS should be conducted with the objective of automation to an optimum level without requiring additional personnel except during a transitional phase.